

CSSDCA SOLEMN DECLARATION

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), meeting in Lome, Togo, at the 36th Assembly of our Organization, have considered the report of the Ministerial meeting of the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA) held in Abuja, from 8 to 9 May, 2000. The Ministerial Conference was convened pursuant to the decision taken in Algiers in July 1999, proclaiming 2000 as the Year of Peace, Security and Solidarity in Africa as well as the Declaration adopted on 9 September, 1999, at our 4th Extraordinary Summit in Sirte, in the Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which, inter-alia, decided on the establishment of an African Union and the convening of the Ministerial Conference.

2. We recall the Decisions we have taken, over the years, to promote political stability and economic development in our Continent. In the realm of promoting stability, the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and the Declaration on the Political and Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes Taking Place in the World, were adopted in 1990.

3. In June 1993, in Cairo, Egypt, we adopted a Declaration establishing the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution to forge, within the OAU, a new institutional dynamism for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. In 1981 and 1998 respectively, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Protocol on the establishment of the African Court on Human and People's Rights, were adopted. Both were important instruments for ensuring the promotion, protection and observance of human rights as an integral part of our Organization's wider objective of promoting collective security for durable peace and sustainable development.

4. "In July 1997, during our Summit in Harare, we took a stand against Unconstitutional

Changes of Government. This led the Algiers Summit of July 1999 to adopt a decision on Unconstitutional Changes of Governments to reinforce respect for democracy, the rule of law, good governance and stability."

5. In the area of development and cooperation, the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos were adopted in 1980; the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and the Cairo Agenda for Re-launching the Economic and Social Development of Africa, were adopted in 1991 and 1995 respectively. The Sirte Declaration of September 1999, included measures for accelerating the process of economic integration and addressing the question of Africa's indebtedness.

6. We recall that these concerns were at the core of the initiative launched by the African Leadership Forum on the CSSDCA process. We note that the conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa as proposed in the Kampala Document was not conceived as a one-off event, but rather as a process. The underlying thinking of the CSSDCA process as articulated in the four calabashes of the Kampala Document of 1991 was a recognition of the fact that the problems of security and stability in many African countries had impaired their capacity to achieve the necessary level of intra and inter-African cooperation that is required to attain the integration of the continent and critical to the continent's socio-economic development and transformation. In this regard, we have used both the revised Kampala Document and the working document elaborated by our experts in Addis Ababa to enrich our thinking on the CSSDCA process.

7. We note that all the major decisions taken by our Organization since its inception, reflect the inter-linkage between peace, stability, development, integration and cooperation. We believe that the CSSDCA process creates a synergy between the various activities currently undertaken by our Organization and should therefore help to consolidate the work of the OAU in the areas of peace, security, stability, development and cooperation. It should provide a policy development forum for the elaboration and advancement of common values within the main policy organs of the OAU.

8. We are convinced that the interactive approach embedded in the CSSDCA initiative, should provide an invaluable tool for the pursuit of the agenda of the OAU in the new millennium, with particular reference to the issues of Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

9. In recognition of the importance of the CSSDCA, which shall encompass four major areas henceforth called Calabashes: Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in furthering Africa's interests within the ambit of the OAU, we affirm the following general and specific principles:

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

(a) Respect for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of all Member States;

(b) The security, stability and development of every African country is inseparably linked to that of other African countries. Instability in one country affects the stability of neighbouring countries and has serious implications for continental unity, peace and development;

(c) The interdependence of Member States and the link between their security, stability and development make it imperative to develop a common African agenda. Such an agenda must be based on a unity of purpose and a collective political consensus derived from a firm conviction that Africa cannot make any significant progress without finding lasting solutions to the problem of peace and security;

(d) The peaceful resolution of disputes, with emphasis on seeking African solutions to

African problems;

(e) The prevention, management and resolution of conflicts provide the enabling environment for peace, security, stability and development to flourish;

(f) The responsibility for the security, stability and socio-economic development of the Continent lies primarily with African States;

(g) While recognizing that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security has with the United Nations Security Council, the OAU, in close cooperation with the United Nations and the Regional Economic Communities, remains the premier organization for promoting security, stability, development and cooperation in Africa;

(h) Democracy, good governance, respect for human and peoples' rights and the rule of law are prerequisites for the security, stability and development of the Continent;

(i) Africa's resources should be used more effectively to meet the needs of African peoples and to improve their well-being;

(j) The fulfillment of the objectives of the CSSDCA, requires the strengthening of Africa's solidarity and partnership with other regions of the world, in order to meet the challenges of globalization and avoid further marginalization;

(k) HIV/AIDS and other pandemics on the continent constitute a threat to human security as well as short and long term sustainable growth in Africa;

(l) Member States should adhere in good faith to all CSSDCA principles and ensure their implementation.

SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES

Security

10. Recognizing that security should be seen in its wholesomeness and totality including the right of peoples to live in peace with access to the basic necessities of life, while fully enjoying the rights enshrined in the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and freely participating in the affairs of their societies; and bearing in mind that Africa's security and that of its Member States are inseparably linked with the security of all African peoples;

We affirm that:

(a) Security should be recognized as a pillar of the CSSDCA process. It is an indispensable condition for peace, stability, development and cooperation. It underscores the organic links that exist between the security of Member States as a whole and the security of each of them on the basis of their history, culture, geography and their common destiny. This implies individual and collective responsibilities exercised within the basic framework of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and other relevant international instruments;

(b) The concept of security must embrace all aspects of society including economic, political, and social and environmental dimensions of the individual, family, and community, local and national life. The security of a nation must be based on the security of the life of the individual citizens to live in peace and to satisfy basic needs while being able to participate fully in societal affairs and enjoying freedom and fundamental human rights;

(c) The security of all Africans and their States as a whole is indispensable for stability, development and cooperation in Africa. This should be a sacred responsibility of all African States – individually and collectively- which must be exercised within the basic framework of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and other relevant international instruments;

(d) Member States should in times of peace undertake the delimitation and demarcation of common borders;

(e) There is an imperative need to build and enhance Africa’s capacity for peace support operations, emergency relief preparedness and natural disaster response at the sub-regional and continental levels, including the strengthening of regional efforts and initiatives;

(f) Foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Member States, especially in situations of conflict should be resisted and condemned by all Member States;

(g) The problem of refugees and displaced persons constitutes a threat to peace and security of the continent and its root causes must be addressed;

(h) Uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons as well as the problem of landmines pose a threat to peace and security in the African continent.

Stability

11. Noting that stability requires that all States be guided by strict adherence to the rule of law, good governance, peoples participation in public affairs, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the establishment of political organizations devoid of sectarian, religious, ethnic, regional and racial extremism;

We affirm that:

(a) The Executive, legislative and judicial branches of government must respect their national constitutions and adhere to the provisions of the law and other legislative enactment promulgated by National Assemblies. No one should be exempted from accountability;

(b) The active and genuine participation of citizens of every country in the decision-making processes and in the conduct of public affairs must be fostered and facilitated;

(c) All rights and freedoms of citizens should be promoted and protected;

(d) There shall be no hindrance to the promotion of political pluralism. All forms of extremism and intolerance foster instability;

(e) Terrorism, in all its manifestations, is inimical to stability.

Development

12. Noting that the attainment of self-reliance, sustainable growth and economic development will be facilitated by the promotion of economic cooperation and integration; that effective diversification of the resource and production base is vital for rapid social and economic transformation; that popular participation, equal opportunity, transparency in public policy-making and partnership between government and peoples are necessary for the achievement of development; that improved access to resources and markets for Africa's exports as well as debt cancellation and capacity-building in all fields of human endeavour are crucial for Africa's development;

We affirm that:

(a) The accelerated economic development of our countries is at the centre of our national policies and in this regard, comprehensive programmes will be put in place at the national and regional levels to address capacity constraints, infrastructural problems and weak industrial and technological base;

(b) Self-sustaining economic growth and development must be grounded on self-reliance and diversification of the production base of African economies;

(c) Unilateral imposition of economic sanctions and blockade are unjust and constitute a serious constraint to development;

(d) Rapid physical and economic integration of the continent through the African Economic Community and the Regional Economic Communities is vital for Africa's economic recovery and development and for enhancing prospects to achieve competitiveness in a globalizing world;

(e) The principles of popular participation, equal opportunity and equitable access to resources for all people must underlie all development objectives and strategies;

(f) Partnership, trust and transparency between leaders and citizens will be critical to ensure sustainable development, based on mutual responsibilities and a shared vision;

(g) An effective solution to Africa's external debt problem including total debt cancellation in accordance with the mandates given to the Presidents of Algeria and South Africa is crucial to supporting Africa's programme on poverty eradication;

(h) The inalienable sovereign right of African countries to control their natural resources must be respected.

Cooperation

13. Noting the importance of regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration to the development of our continent, and the efforts so far made in this connection to implement the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, as well as the various initiatives of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs); and stressing the need to articulate and harmonize the macro-economic policies, strengthen the institutions for regional integration and build regional infrastructural networks, particularly in the transport and communication sectors;

We affirm that:

(a) Member States should further intensify efforts at economic integration to compete better in the global economy and work towards a shortened time-table for the realization of the African Economic Community (AEC);

(b) Member States should act jointly and collectively to develop, protect, manage and equitably utilize common natural resources for mutual benefit;

(c) Taking into account the growing global interdependence, African countries must seek to explore further, opportunities for beneficial cooperative relations with other developing and industrialized countries;

(d) In pursuing closer cooperation and integration, African countries will need to transfer certain responsibilities to continental or sub-regional institutions within the framework of the African Economic Community and the Regional Economic Communities;

(e) The promotion of North-South and South-South cooperation is an important strategy in Africa's development effort, particularly in addressing issues such as Official

Development Assistance (ODA) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows, external debt and terms of trade which impact on Africa's development;

(f) The process of regional and continental integration will be facilitated by enhanced effort at harmonization and coordination of economic programmes and policies of Regional Economic Communities.

PLAN OF ACTION

14. Having identified the General and Specific Principles that will guide the CSSDCA process and having reached a consensus on the need to put in place measures for the implementation of those principles, we, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, have agreed on the following Plan of Action.

Security

We agree to:

a) Reinforce Africa's capacity for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution by strengthening the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, in particular, through the mobilization of additional resources and logistical support for the operational activities of the Mechanism and the enhancement of the effectiveness of the Central Organ;

b) Strengthen the capacity of the OAU mechanism for negotiation, mediation and conciliation, inter-alia, through the use of African statesmen and eminent personalities in overall efforts to prevent, manage and/or resolve conflicts;

c) Establish modalities for more effective cooperation, coordination and harmonization

between the OAU and African and non-African organizations on the one hand, and between the OAU and the UN, as the World body which is primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, on the other, especially, in relation to peace-building and peace-making and peace-keeping;

d) Adopt confidence-building measures based on trust, transparency, good neighbourliness, respect for the territorial integrity, security concerns of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, as the bedrock of inter-state relations. In this regard, negotiations for the delimitation and demarcation of disputed borders, exchange of information and cooperation at the sub-regional level on security matters, especially on issues relating to terrorism, cross border criminal activities and joint military training as well as emergency relief preparedness and natural disaster response;

e) Recommit ourselves to politically negotiated approaches for resolving conflicts so as to create an environment of peace and stability on the continent that will also have the effect of reducing military expenditure, thus releasing additional resources for socio-economic development;

f) Ensure that parties to conflicts commit themselves to fully cooperate with the efforts made within the framework of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution and of regional mechanisms;

g) Endorse the proposed OAU Early Warning System which should be made fully operational expeditiously, to provide timely information on conflict situations in Africa. This should be complemented by a corresponding preparedness by our States to facilitate early political action by the OAU, based on Early Warning information;

h) Enhance OAU's capacity for mobilizing support and resources for the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts of countries emerging from conflicts;

i) Implement the Decision of the 31st Summit on Ready Contingents within Member States for possible deployment by the UN and in exceptional circumstances, by the OAU, as well as the recommendations of the meetings of the African Chiefs of Defence Staff;

j) Address the root causes of the problem of refugees and displaced persons on the continent and work towards the mobilization of resources to provide adequate assistance for asylum countries to enable them mitigate the impact of the refugee burden;

k) Address the phenomena of armed elements and political activists in Refugee Camps, impunity, crimes against humanity, child soldiers and drug addiction, which have contributed to the state of insecurity in some parts of the continent;

l) Work towards ending the illicit proliferation and trafficking in small arms and light weapons that has played a major role in perpetuating intra and inter-State conflicts in Africa.

m) Monitor progress and regularly evaluate the implementation of the Algiers Decision declaring the year 2000, as the Year of Peace, Security and Solidarity in Africa.

Stability

We agree to:

a) Intensify efforts aimed at enhancing the process of democratization in Africa. In this regard, the strengthening of institutions that will sustain democracy on the continent including the holding of free and fair elections should be encouraged;

b) Adopt and implement a set of guidelines for dealing with unconstitutional and undemocratic changes in Africa in line with the Decisions that we took during the 35th Ordinary Session of our Assembly held in Algiers in 1999;

c) Encourage the participation and contribution of Civil Society in our States, to the efforts to bring about further democratization in our Continent;

d) Recommit ourselves to the promotion of Good Governance, a culture of peace and accountability by leaders and officials, as a shared community value;

e) Encourage civic education on good governance and the promotion of African values in African institutions and schools;

f) Uphold and guarantee the rule of law, the protection and defence of the rights of citizenship as acquired at independence and as provided for in national constitutions;

g) Vigorously combat racism, extreme nationalism, religious extremism and xenophobic tendencies;

h) Promote and encourage cohesion, national solidarity and identity within African societies;

i) Protect and promote respect for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, such as the freedom of expression and association, political and trade union pluralism and other forms of participatory democracy;

j) Ensure the equitable distribution of national income and wealth, as well as transparency in the exploitation of Africa's resources. In this regard, the negative impact of external and internal interests in the exploitation of Africa's resources and corruption, which continue to fuel conflicts on the continent, should be addressed in a more cohesive and effective manner;

k) Promote greater burden-sharing in addressing refugee problems in Africa and, especially, reduce its negative impact on the environment and the economies of asylum countries;

l) Condemn genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in the Continent and undertake to cooperate with relevant institutions set up to prosecute the perpetrators. Similarly, we agree to take measures to prevent the occurrence of genocide on our Continent, and encourage ratification of the protocol on the establishment of African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the statute of the International Criminal Court.

Development

We agree to:

(a) Accelerate the implementation process of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community;

(b) Implement the Cairo Agenda for Re-launching the economic and Social Development of Africa;

(c) Implement the Sirte Summit Declaration on the establishment of the African Union and other Decisions, including the establishment of a Pan-African Parliament;

(d) Initiate action in cooperation with other developing countries to establish an open, rule-based, accountable, predictable, just, equitable, comprehensive and development-oriented global system of economic relations that takes into account the special situation of African economies;

(e) Create stable and predictable economic environment that will allow for linkages

between different economic sectors and dynamic local entrepreneurship, while establishing and reinforcing linkages between the formal and informal sectors;

(f) Design programmes for poverty eradication and the improvement of the living standards of African peoples;

(g) Support the appeals made by Tunisia to Heads of State and Government at Regional and International Fora for the creation of a World Solidarity Fund to combat poverty;

(h) Build and nurture African solidarity and unity of action, based on shared values, common development interests and goals for the benefit of Africa and its peoples. Such solidarity should be manifested in situations where African countries and peoples are subjected to external pressures and sanctions;

(i) Encourage and strengthen work ethics as well as create the necessary conditions to stop brain drain, particularly, through increased development of African human resources and the establishment of a register of African experts;

(j) Strengthen partnership between the State and the private sector and create the propitious environment for the development and expansion of our economies;

(k) Develop the human resources of our Continent;

(l) Enhance relevant skills development through the optimal and efficient utilization of existing institutions and develop new centres of excellence, and where necessary draw on, inter alia, the diaspora to supplement existing capacities and facilitate technology and skills transfer;

(m) Implement reforms to enhance economic development;

(n) Ensure the enactment of appropriate national laws to extend equal opportunities with respect to health, education, employment and other civic rights to all citizens, especially women and the girl child;

(o) Mobilize financial resources, pursue the objective of the cancellation of Africa's debt and of improved market access for Africa's exports;

(p) Develop as a priority, the main sectors of the economy, at all levels, such as agriculture, energy, industry, trade, transport and communication and human resources;

(q) Give special emphasis to the empowerment of women to enable them actively and independently participate in activities aimed at promoting economic development;

(r) Develop programmes to improve the skills of Youths, so as to facilitate their employment and enhance their role in development;

(s) Promote sustainable environmental policies and sustained economic growth.

Cooperation

We agree to:

(a) Pursue with vigour, the implementation of the Abuja Treaty, establishing the African Economic Community;

(b) Implement the Cairo Agenda for Re-launching the Economic and Social Development of Africa;

(c) Implement the Sirte Declaration of 9-9-99;

(d) Elaborate a strategy for the dissemination and popularization of the decisions of the OAU/AEC and the RECs;

(e) Improve coordination at the level of the OAU to ensure accelerated integration at the regional levels and improved coordination among the RECs, and between the OAU/AEC and the RECs;

(f) Promote financial cooperation and integration of financial markets;

(g) Promote intra-African and international cooperation with a view to finding an effective solution to Africa's outstanding problems in the fields of debt, trade, investment and AIDS pandemic;

(h) Implement the outcome of various studies undertaken on the establishment of self-financing mechanisms for the RECs;

(i) Improve the modalities for undertaking regular review and the implementation of cooperation agreements, within Africa and between Africa and its development partners;

(j) Improve various trade related facilities, including transport, communication, border formalities, to ensure the free movement of persons and goods at all levels;

(k) Promote joint ventures between Member States and Regional Cooperation programmes;

(l) Take necessary measures to identify static and dynamic comparative advantage, through joint harmonization of regional policy framework, as the basis for the expansion of the production base in African countries and as a guide for cooperation between African countries in the areas of industry, trade, energy, transport, communication and human resources;

(m) Strengthen Regional Economic Communities;

(n) Promote South-South Cooperation and Cooperation between Africa and the Industrialized countries;

(o) Improve access to information and communication technologies;

(p) Forge close cooperation with a view to addressing problems related to natural disasters through the establishment of appropriate institutions and promotion of capacity building.

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

15. In order to implement the CSSDCA within the framework of our Organization and ensure the sustainability of the process, we agree to:

a) Establish a Standing Conference which should meet every two years during our Summit. Provision should be made for African Parliamentarians to make their contributions to the Conference through the Pan-African Parliament, while representatives of the civil society may forward their views and recommendations to the Standing Conference through the OAU General Secretariat;

b) Convene of Review Meetings of Plenipotentiaries and Senior Officials of OAU

Member States to monitor the implementation of the CSSDCA decisions, in-between Sessions of the Standing Conference. To this end, we request our Secretary General to work out the modalities and financial implications for realizing this objective;

c) Incorporate CSSDCA principles and guidelines in national institutions that would have responsibility for helping in the monitoring of the implementation of CSSDCA activities;

d) Request the Secretary General to initiate internal administrative arrangements for designating, within the OAU Secretariat, a Unit to coordinate CSSDCA activities;

e) Take necessary measures to ensure that detailed discussions are undertaken on the various Calabashes in order to implement the CSSDCA process. In this regard, the Secretary General is requested to coordinate the consultations with a view to ensuring the convening of the meetings on the Calabashes;

f) Review the progress report of the Secretary General on the CSSDCA process during our next Extra-Ordinary Summit in Sirte, Libya in 2001 and the conclusions of the discussions on the various Calabashes at our Summit in 2002.

g) Review the agreements deriving from these meetings and discussions after considering the outcome of consultations to be undertaken by the Secretary General, during our Summit in Sirte, Libya, in 2001.

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